

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00183 212118Z
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 /016 W
-----212121Z 002255 /70
R 211539Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2134

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EO 11652: NA OVIP
TAGS: OEXC, IVP, DO (JOHN PATRICK)
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF DOMINICA PREMIER PATRICK JOHN: IVP GRANT

REF STATE 261125 AND PREVIOUS

1. PREMIER JOHN OF DOMINICA HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT HE IS PLEASED TO ACCEPT GRANT AND WOULD LIKE TO TRAVEL IN US FROM MAY 15 TO JUNE 6. HOWEVER, HE WISHES NOT ONLY TO REMAIN THREE WEEKS RATHER THAN A MONTH BUT ALSO TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER OF FINANCE VICTOR RIVIERE, ATTORNEY GENERAL LEO AUSTIN, AND PERMANENT SECRETARY IN DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY ARLINGTON RIVIERE. THREE GOD OFFICIALS WOULD TRAVEL IN THE US AT EXPENSE OF GOD, HE STATES; PRESUMABLY, GOD WOULD ALSO MEET COST OF THEIR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BUT THIS POINT IS NOT MADE EXPLICIT.

2. EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT DEPARTMENT PREFERS TO HAVE IVP GRANTEEES USE ALL 30 DAYS OF GRANT BUT ASSUMES THAT JOHN'S WISHES IN THIS REGARD DO NOT CONSTITUTE AN INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLE, ESPECIALLY GIVEN HIS POSITION AS HEAD OF GOVERNMENT. EMBASSY HAS NO IDEA HOW DEPARTMENT REGARDS IDEA THAT PREMIER BE ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT. CLEARLY, PROPOSAL IS UNUSUAL AND INCONSISTENT WITH FOCUS ON INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL AND EXPERIENCE THAT CHARACTERIZES PROGRAM. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT CAN BE AR-

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GUED THAT WE WOULD BE GETTING FOUR GRANTS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE: I.E., IF GRANT SUCCEEDS IN ITS OBJECTIVES OF GIVING JOHN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF US AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN EXPERIENCE THAT WILL HELP HIM TO DO HIS JOB BETTER, IT MAY WELL BE THAT SIMILAR EXPERIENCE WILL GIVE SIMILAR RESULTS INSOFAR AS OTHER THREE MEMBERS OF PARTY ARE CONCERNED (AUSTIN, OF COURSE, HAS ALREADY HAD A GRANT).

3. FYI: JOHN IS A RATHER INSECURE INDIVIDUAL, WHO, TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, NEVER TRAVELS ABROAD WITHOUT A SIMILAR RETINUE. VICTOR RIVIERE IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS LEANING TOWARD THE LEFT, AND MIGHT WELL BE FAVORABLY INFUENCED BY FULLER EXPOSURE TO AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS. END FYI

4. GIVEN OUR UNCERTAINTY AS TO DEPARTMENT'S POSITION, WE ARE WITHHOLDING REPLY TO JOHN'S LETTER. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST WHETHER OR NOT DEPARTMENT CAN ACCEPT PREMIER'S PROPOSALS THAT (A) HE REMAIN THREE WEEKS AND (B) HE BE ACCOMMPANIED AS OUTLINED ABOVE (PROVIDED GOD PAYS ALL EXPENSES OF THREE OTHER OFFICIALS.)

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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